

HO-806

## Old Elkridge Schoolhouse

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 05-03-2004***

HO-806, Old Elkridge Schoolhouse  
6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge  
Howard County  
Ca. 1880  
Private

### CAPSULE SUMMARY

The vacant house sits in disrepair on an overgrown lot at the intersection of Montgomery Road and Old Washington Road. The one story frame building faces east on a small hill close to the south edge of the road on a part stone, part concrete foundation. In its earliest incarnation the building was an early schoolhouse in Elkridge, perhaps dating back to around 1880. In 1912 the building was sold by the school board and was converted into a private residence. The original portion of the structure has a gable front roof and rests on a stone foundation. Three tall original 6/6 wood windows remain on the north façade, the only façade that has not been added onto. Additions have been made to the rear (west) façade and the south façade. An enclosed porch stretches across the front of the building. Aluminum siding covers the exterior walls of the building and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An interior brick stovepipe chimney pierces the roof in the center of the original building and probably served a central heating stove.

The Old Elkridge Schoolhouse is significant under criteria A and C in the areas of education and architecture. In spite of its early 20<sup>th</sup> century refit as a dwelling, the building is one of very few one-room, 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolhouses still standing in Howard County and its original form is still evident. In addition, the building rests on a lot that has been used for a schoolhouse since 1841 when it was deeded to the Board of Trustees of Primary School No. 22.

# Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No.

HO-806

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Old Elkrige Schoolhouse

other

### 2. Location

street and number 6317 Old Washington Road

not for publication

city, town Elkrige

vicinity

county Howard

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Start to Finish LLC

street and number 6317 Old Washington Road

telephone

city, town Elkrige

state

MD

zip code

21075

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse

tax map and parcel: Map 38, P 519

city, town Ellicott City

liber

7114

folio

161

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☒ Other see HO-803, Survey District

### 6. Classification

**Category****Ownership****Current Function****Resource Count**☐ district☐ public☐ agriculture☐ landscape☒ building(s)☒ private☐ commerce/trade☐ recreation/culture☐ structure☐ both☐ defense☐ religion☐ site☒ domestic☐ social☐ object☐ education☐ transportation☐ funerary☐ work in progress☐ government☐ unknown☐ health care☒ vacant/not in use☐ industry☐ other:

Contributing Noncontributing

1

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

0

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. HO-806

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The vacant house sits in disrepair on an overgrown lot at the intersection of Montgomery Road and Old Washington Road. The one story frame building faces east on a small hill close to the south edge of the road on a part stone, part concrete foundation. In its earliest incarnation the building was an early schoolhouse in Elkridge, perhaps dating back to around 1880. In 1912 the building was sold by the school board and was converted into a private residence. The original portion of the structure has a gable front roof and rests on a stone foundation. Three tall original 6/6 wood windows remain on the north façade, the only façade that has not been added onto. Additions have been made to the rear (west) façade and the south façade. An enclosed porch stretches across the front of the building. Aluminum siding covers the exterior walls of the building and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An interior brick stovepipe chimney pierces the roof in the center of the original building and probably served a central heating stove.

The front façade of the original portion of the building probably had a central door flanked by a window on either side. Today, the existing flush door is not original and there is only a window located to the right of the door. The window is a 6/6 double hung wood window and may be original. The entire original first story of the front façade is now concealed behind the enclosed porch and what was the exterior of the front wall is covered with faux-wood paneling. A full size 6/6 double hung wood window is located in the gable which also features exposed purlin ends.

The north façade of the building gives the best indication of what the original building looked like. Three tall 6/6 double hung wood windows line the wall and were probably echoed on the south façade, providing ample natural light for the young students. An addition one bay deep stretches across the full width of the west (rear) façade of the structure and the seam between the original building and the addition is clearly visible on the north façade in the foundation and in the roof construction. A wide, open eave overhang on the north façade makes it easy to identify which are the original rafters and which part of the building was a later addition, and the transition from stone to concrete in the foundation also indicates where the original building ended.

Both the south and west facades are completely concealed by additions. The additions probably happened fairly early, around 1915, however, and the windows in these parts of the house are also 6/6 double hung wood windows.

The building was converted into a single family dwelling around 1915, one or both of the additions were probably made at that time, and the original interior was partitioned and completely refinished. The existing moldings are nicely done and all date to this refit of the building. The attic was partially finished at one time and a bathroom was added up there. In one area where the structural components of the roof are exposed, it is possible to see cut nails in the sheathing of the roof. It seems likely, given the small size of the original building, that the interior of the building was originally just one large room with a central stove for heating and perhaps a small closet or two. The attic was probably not originally finished since there is no evidence that it was ever lathed and plastered; some of the rafters are concealed with some sort of synthetic tile that certainly dates post-1900.

The building is only in fair condition. It has been vacant for around a year and some damage has been caused by a falling tree across the rear addition and a water leak that damaged part of the ceiling. The presence of cut nails in the sheathing indicates a pre-1900 construction date.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-806

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
<b>Specific dates</b>	ca. 1880-1912	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	unknown		
<b>Construction dates</b>	ca. 1880				

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Old ElkrIDGE Schoolhouse is significant under criteria A and C in the areas of education and architecture. In spite of its early 20th century refit as a dwelling, the building is one of very few one-room, 19th century schoolhouses still standing in Howard County and its original form is still evident. In addition, the building rests on a lot that has been used for a schoolhouse since 1841 when it was deeded to the Board of Trustees of Primary School No. 22.

The 1841 deed from Daniel Murray and his wife conveyed just over a quarter acre (46 ¾ square perches) on the southeast side of the Baltimore and Washington Turnpike between the 8th and 9th milestones to the Trustees of the Primary School for the location of a school for District 22. In 1860 two portions of that lot, described as "the schoolhouse lot," were sold to the Hartke family who also owned additional neighboring property, including the house still standing next door (recorded as HO-807, The Hartke Double House). That deed indicates that there was a schoolhouse building, identified as "Primary School No. 1 of the First District of Howard County," standing on the lot at the time. (When Howard County was still part of Anne Arundel County as Howard District, the school houses in what is now Howard County were numbered 22 through 48, numbers 1-21 being in Anne Arundel County proper. When Howard County became a separate county in 1851, the school houses were renumbered 1-22. Therefore, what was Primary School No. 22 in 1841, became Primary School No. 1 in the 1850's.) It is not clear if that building was on the part of the parcel transferred to the Hartkes. In fact, "School House No. 1" is labeled on the 1860 Martenet Map of Howard County in approximately the same place as the existing building. However, the 1860 deed referred to above states that the northernmost corner of the schoolhouse building was 115 feet from the southern edge of the Turnpike and the existing building rests much closer to the road - only around 24 feet from the edge of the old turnpike - and the location of the road has not shifted in the last 150 years. The school is not labeled on the 1878 Hopkins map of Howard County, and this evidence, combined with the deed evidence above, indicates that the early schoolhouse was perhaps no longer standing by 1878.

However, the basic form of the existing building is clearly a one-room schoolhouse with a central heating stove and the school commissioners continued to own the lot until 1912 when the Board of County School Commissioners of Howard County sold the building and its lot to John J. Hartke. Therefore, the existing school building must have been built sometime in the 1880's or 1890's. A date of ca. 1880 is assigned to this building based on the presence of all cut nails in the original roof sheathing and the fact that by 1912 the building had already outlived its usefulness. Presumably, the school commissioners would not sell a building that was less than 10 years old.

The Hartke family owned neighboring property, including the frame double house next door (HO-807) which had been in the family since the 1840's. John J. Hartke Sr. owned the old schoolhouse building until he sold it to his son, John J. Hartke Jr. in 1934. One of these two men is assumed to have been the one to convert the old schoolhouse into a dwelling. The double house next door is referred to as "the Home Place" in a 1935 deed and it is possible that the elder John Hartke lived in "the Home Place" and bought the schoolhouse simply because it bordered his property. The Hartke family lost "the Home Place" as a result of a 1935 court case,

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No HO-806

Name Old Elkridge Schoolhouse

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

however, so the younger John Hartke may have then converted the schoolhouse into a dwelling. The converted school building remained in the Hartke family until April 2003 when it was sold to a limited liability company. It is currently vacant, in poor repair, and for sale.

In the mid-19th century, the public education system in Howard County left much to be desired. The first attempts to organize state-sponsored education began with an 1816 act that passed the state legislature and levied a moderate tax on the wealthy inhabitants to pay for the education of the poorer ones. In 1825, a state law provided for the first system of public education throughout the state. Under this law, the governor appointed a state superintendent and named commissioners of primary schools for each county. These commissioners then divided each county into districts and each district appointed a clerk, a collector, and three trustees. The trustees were the ones responsible for erecting and maintaining the buildings and furnishing the fuel, books, stationary, etc. In 1847, each school district received \$195 for each school in the district; one third of that amount was contributed by the state and two thirds of it came from the district. This early system didn't always work the way it was supposed to, and there was a lot of variation in the quality of the schools. In 1864, the state constitution provided for a complete overhaul of the public education system. A state board of education was established and county boards of school commissioners became responsible for the operation of the schools. The three-man school board in Howard County first met October 1, 1865 and consisted of Samuel K. Dashiell, Dr. Joel Hopkins, and David Burdette. Dashiell was responsible for supervising the schools in the first district. In 1865, there were 24 primary schools in Howard County. By 1900, there were 60 public schools for whites and 14 colored schools. The first high school was built in Lisbon in 1899. (1)

Why Primary School No. 1 ceased to operate or even exist by 1878 is unclear, especially since the school district continued to own the land until 1912. Perhaps there was only a very short gap in operation but it happened to be at exactly the time when Hopkins was doing his survey for his map. Other schools are shown on the map, including one on Schoolhouse Lane (Railroad Avenue) just east of the railroad tracks in Elkridge and one less than half a mile up Old Montgomery Road from the intersection of the Turnpike and Montgomery Road where Primary School No. 1 used to stand, so presumably Hopkins would have noted the school's location if it was standing. Sometime shortly after Hopkins' map was made, the school was reconstructed on the lot much closer to the Turnpike in its current location. It operated for no more than 30 years before it was sold and converted to a private residence. Given the relative scarcity of schools across the county, it does seem odd to have three schools in such close proximity to each other; it is possible that one of the three was a colored school. Colored schools are first mentioned in the records of the school board in 1870. A close examination of the school board records, which do supposedly exist from 1847-1860 and 1865 onward, should be able to narrow down exactly when this particular schoolhouse was built and whether it was constructed to serve white or colored children. (2)

There are very few 19th century primary school buildings left in Howard County and this one therefore becomes much more significant as one of the last remaining examples. In spite of the alterations made to the building when it was converted into a residence, the original form is still evident, and it is important that a former schoolhouse building still stands on "the schoolhouse lot" where children attended school as early as 1841.

1. Joetta Cramm, HOWARD COUNTY: A PICTORAL HISTORY. (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1987).
2. Ibid.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. HO-806

See continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 0.5

Acreage of historical setting 0.5

Quadrangle name Relay

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax map 38, parcel 519. It is unclear how the boundaries of the current lot compare with the boundaries of the old "schoolhouse lot". They clearly overlap in some areas but probably differ in others.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Kristin Hill, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning

date 12/2/03

street and number 3430 Court House Drive

telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City

state MD zip code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Old Elkridge Schoolhouse

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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Cramm, Joetta. HOWARD COUNTY: A PICTORAL HISTORY, (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1987).

Howard County Land Records, Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.

Hopkins, G.M. ATLAS OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, 1878. (Ellicott City, Maryland: Howard County Bicentennial Commission, Inc., 1975).

Martenet, Simon J. MARTENET'S MAP OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND. (Baltimore, 1860.)



HO-806  
Old Elkridge Schoolhouse  
6317 Old Washington Road  
Elkridge, Howard County

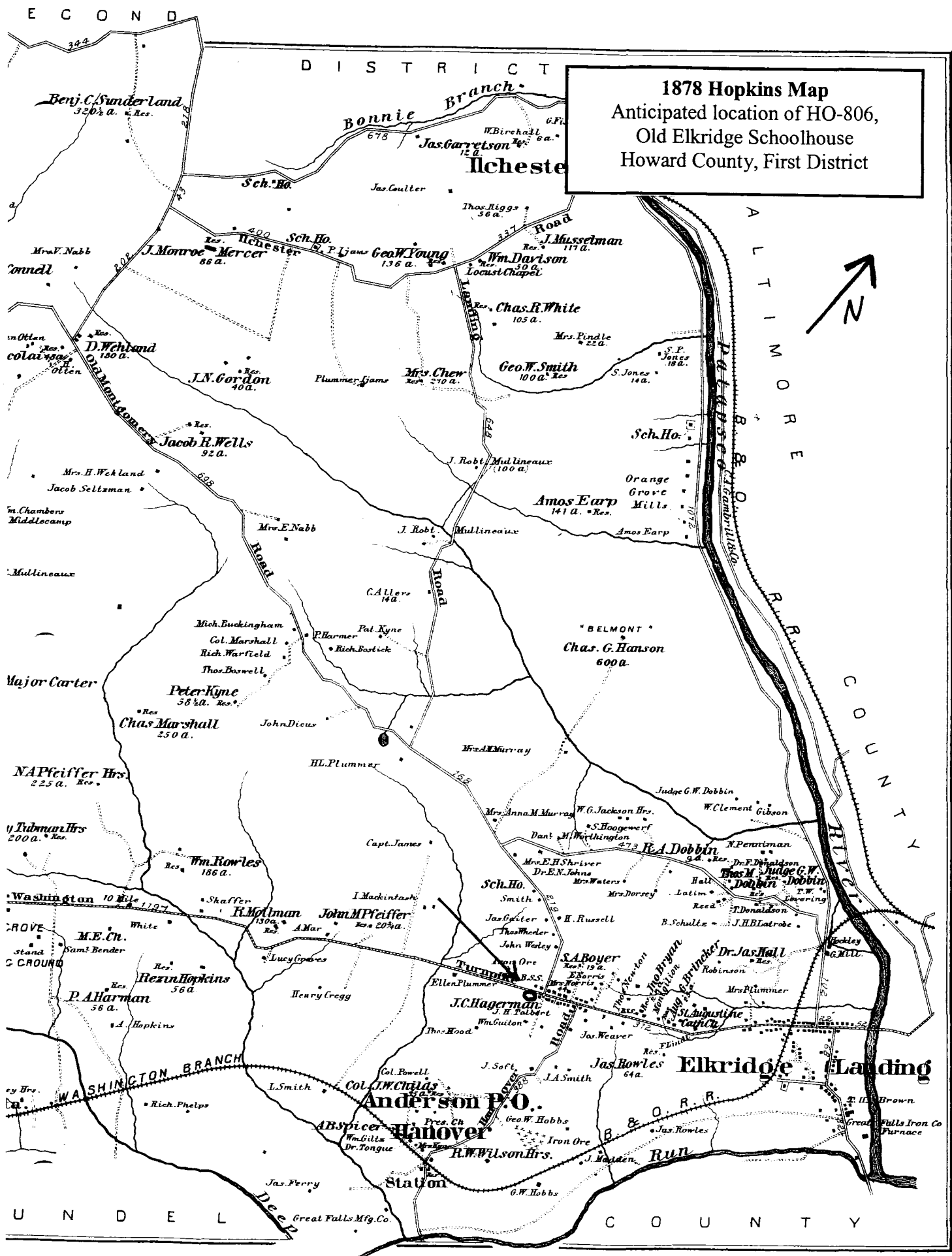
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
Timothy V. Hartke, Pamela M. Hartke, Gregory J. Hartke, and Carol A. Hartke		Start to Finish LLC		April 15, 2003	7114	161	Deed	\$80,000, 0.44 acres, same property conveyed in L5253, F58
Carol A. Hartke, personal representative of the estate of James V. Hartke, deceased		Pamela Hartke, Timothy Hartke, Gregory Hartke, and Carol Hartke		October 3, 2000	5253	58	Deed	All of the grantees are the children of James V. Hartke, deceased, who left them the property in his will. Property is the same conveyed in L199, F4.
John J. Hartke, Jr. and wife Ellen	District of Columbia	Catherine V. Hartke and James and Helen Hartke		May 22, 1947	199	4	Deed	John Jr. and Ellen convey the property to Catherine for the term of her natural life after which it will go to James and Helen Hartke. 46 ¾ square perches of land. Same property conveyed in L149, F47.
John J. Hartke, Sr. and wife Catherine V. Hartke	Howard	John J. Hartke, Jr.	Howard	May 18, 1934	149	47	Deed	46 ¾ square perches of land. Same property conveyed in L93, F199.
Board of County School Commissioners of Howard County		John J. Hartke	Howard	June 11, 1912	93	199	Deed	Property consists of 46 ¾ square perches of land, "together with the buildings." Metes and bounds are given.

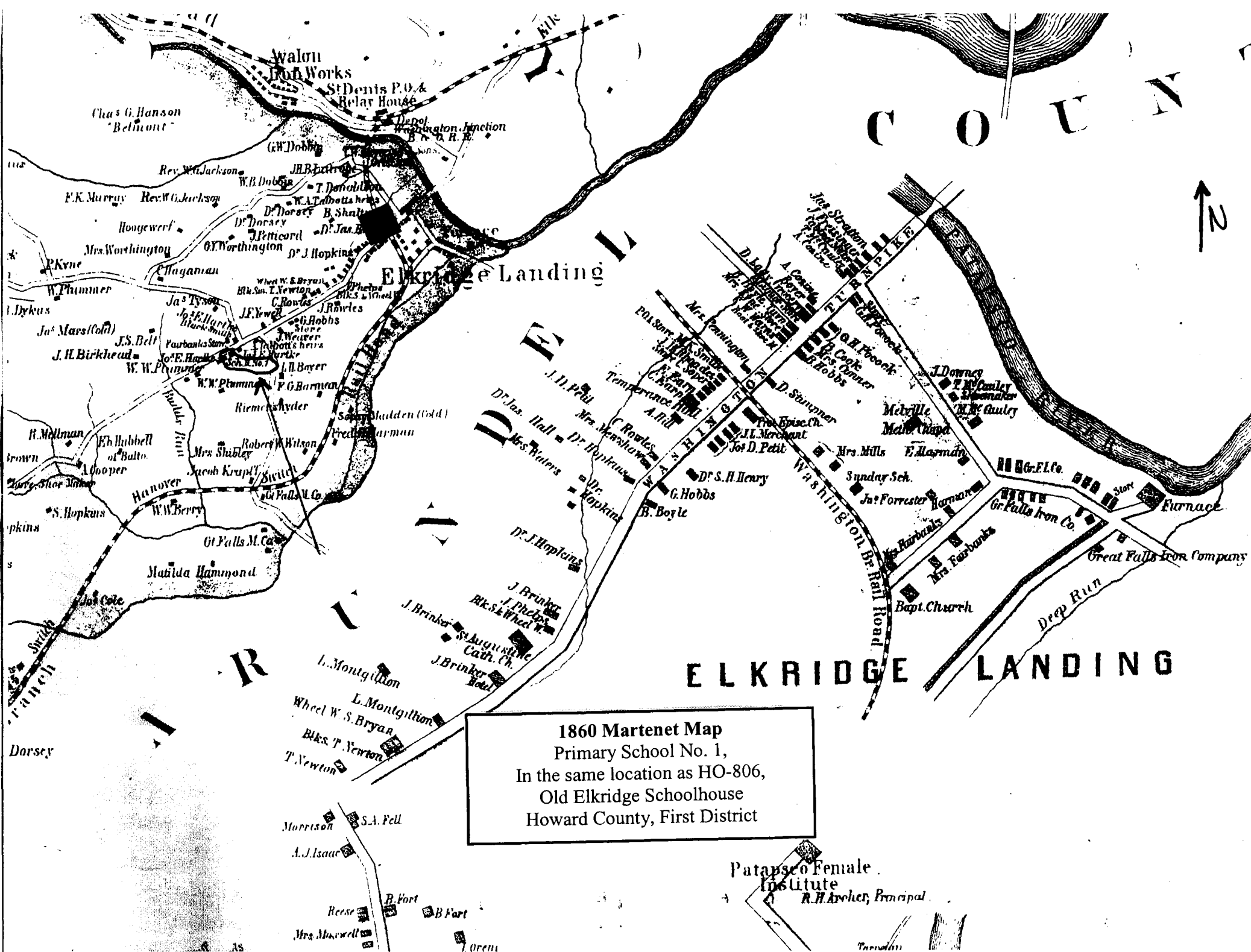
HO-806  
Old Elkridge Schoolhouse  
6317 Old Washington Road  
Elkridge, Howard County

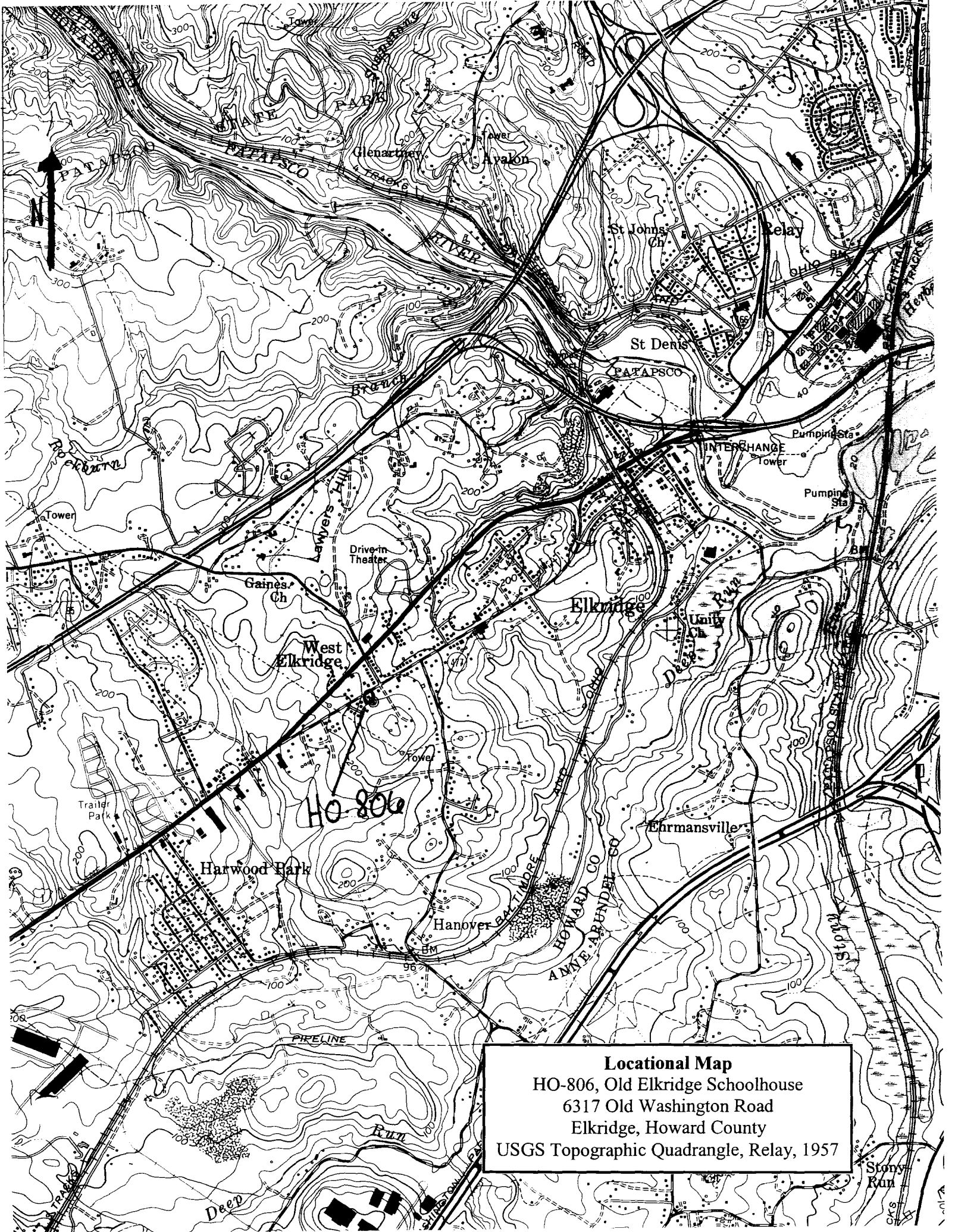
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
Daniel and Mary Murray	Howard District	Thomas Jefferson Talbot, Stephen Bryan and Frederick Harmon, Trustees of Primary School District No. 22 of Howard District, Anne Arundel County		May 22, 1841	1	376	Deed	In exchange for \$15, Murray conveys to the Trustees part of a tract called Rockburn on the southeast side of the Washington Turnpike between the 8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> milestones consisting of 46 ¾ square perches of land for the location of a Primary School for District 22 and for no other use.



**1878 Hopkins Map**  
Anticipated location of HO-806,  
Old Elkrige Schoolhouse  
Howard County, First District





**Locational Map**  
HO-806, Old Elkridge Schoolhouse  
6317 Old Washington Road  
Elkridge, Howard County  
USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Relay, 1957



HO-806, Old Elkridge School House  
6317 Old Washington Rd., Elkridge  
Howard County, MD

Kristin Hill, 11/03

37 21+00 NNNNN 975

Negative at MOSHPO

East elevation

1/10





H0-806, Old Elkridge School House

6317 Old Washington Rd., Elkridge

Howard County, MD

36 21+00 NNNNN 975

Kristin Hill, 11/03

Negative at MDSHP0

NE elevation

2/10



HO-806, Old Elkridge School House

6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge

Howard County, MD

30 21+01 NNNNN 975

Kristin Hill, 11/03

Negative at MDSHPD

NE elevation

3/10



HO-806, Old Elkridge School House

6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge  
35 21+00 NNNNN 975

Howard County, MD

Kristin Hill, 11/03

Negative at MDSTPO

SE elevation

4/10



HO-806, Old Elkridge School House  
6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge  
Howard County, MD

Kristin Hill, 11/03

Negative at MDSHP

SE elevation

5/10





Ho-806, Old Elkridge School House  
6317 Old Washington Rd., Elkridge  
Howard County, MD

33 21+01 NNNNN 975

Kristin Hill, 11/03

Negative at MDSHPD

South elevation

6/10



HO-806, Old Elkridge School House  
6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge  
Howard County, MD  
Knistm Hill, 11/03

28 21+00 NNNNN 975

Negative at MDSHPD

South elevation

7/10



140.806, Old Elkridge School House

6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge

Howard County, MD

31 21+01 NNNNN 975

Known Hill, 11/03

Negative at MDOTPO

original stone foundation, north elevation

8/10



HO-806, old Elkridge School House

6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge

Howard County, MD 29 21+00 NNNNN 975

Kristin Hill, 11/03

Negative at MDSHPD

North elevation, original front section

9/10





HO-806, Old Elkridge School House

6317 Old Washington Rd., Elkridge

Howard County, MD

32 21+00 NNNNN 975

Knist Hill, 11/03

Negative at MDSHPO

North elevation looking east, three original windows and  
Stone foundation

10/10